

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 677

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ashley Shields of Southwest Tennessee Community College upon being selected in the Women's National Basketball Association draft.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful collegiate athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Shields, a guard at Southwest Tennessee Community College, was recently selected in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) draft, becoming the first junior college women's basketball player to ever be drafted; and

WHEREAS, taken in the first round by the Houston Comets as the eighth overall pick, Ashley Shields of Memphis will have the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream of playing in the WNBA; and

WHEREAS, the second-highest scorer in Shelby-Metro girls basketball history, Ashley was a phenomenal high school basketball star at first Hamilton and then Melrose High School, signing a basketball scholarship initially with the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, never playing for the Lady Tigers, Ashley played one season for Northwest Mississippi Community College before the birth of her beloved son Christopher Shields; and

WHEREAS, returning to the basketball hardwood with the Lady Saluqis of Southwest Tennessee Community College, Ms. Shields quickly displayed her exceptional basketball talents as she led the nation with 27.4 points per game and ranked in the top twenty nationally in rebounds and assists on her way to being named a member of the Kodak/Women's Basketball Coaches Association NJCAA Division 1 All-American team; and

WHEREAS, Ashley's most impressive feat of the 2006-2007 basketball season occurred in the TJCCAA/NJCAA regional tournament quarterfinals when she scored a record 65 points in a victory over Cleveland State; and

WHEREAS, Ashley's determination, work ethic, and talent have not only made possible a memorable and successful basketball career, but also surely point toward her success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Shields epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ashley Shields of Southwest Tennessee Community College upon becoming the first junior college player ever selected in the Women's National Basketball Association draft, and wish her every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.